

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 9-12 are pending in the application. Claims 7, 8 and 13-17 are withdrawn from consideration and are hereby cancelled. Claims 1-6 and 9-12 are rejected.

35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1-6 and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamauchi et al. (U.S. Patent 4,880,175 [hereinafter "Yamauchi"]) in view of Kataoka (U.S. Patent 4,238,084).

Method claims 1 and 4 are directed to winding a web around a core at a high speed. A feature of claims 1 and 4 is that the web is wound under a low tension, then the tension is gradually increased to a high tension and, thereafter, the web is wound under a tension which is reduced from the high tension. Independent claims 9 and 11 are drawn to an apparatus for winding a web around a core and include features similar to claims 1 and 4 in regard to the web tension.

Applicant points out that Figure 16 of Yamauchi shows tension that is increased from T0 to T1, gradually increased from T1 to T3, and then decreased from T3 to T5. In contrast, in an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, as shown in the lower portion of Fig. 3, the tension is constant at a low level until T4. The tension is increased from T4 to T5, and then decreased from T5 to T9. Accordingly, the way in which the tension changes in Yamauchi differs from that of the present invention.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that the relied on graph of Yamauchi (i.e., Figure 16) that represents yarn tension, along with Figs. 17 and 18, which respectively illustrate a nipping force and yarn speed, are specifically directed to the way that "yarn" is removed from a

feed bobbin. In particular, the yarn is removed in a direction which is substantially parallel to an axial direction of the feed bobbin, as shown in Figure 7 of Yamauchi. As noted in col. 9, lines 60-68 of Yamauchi, when the yarn is released from the bobbin, the yarn will have a particular tension which, for example, tends to "abruptly increase" when reaching a final point.

With this in mind, Applicant points out to the Examiner that if one were to utilize the applied "sheets" of Kataoka (which are different from yarn) in the device of Yamauchi, the sheets would not necessarily have the same tension characteristics as the yarn. Further, the sheets of Kataoka would presumably not be wound around the 102 bobbin and removed along an axial direction in the same manner as the yarn shown in Fig. 7 of Yamauchi.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the references do not provide the requisite teaching to suggest that if the device of Yamauchi were used to wind a "sheet," as opposed to "yarn," similar results would be obtained. This is because Yamauchi is disclosed as being particularly used for yarn, and there is no teaching or suggestion that would have led one to believe that such tension aspects would also be found when unwinding a "sheet" from a roll, as would be appreciated by one skilled in the art.

Thus, Applicant believes that the Examiner will appreciate that the combination of Yamauchi and Kataoka would not have taught or suggested each feature found in independent claims 1, 4, 11 and 9, such that the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn. The rejection of dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 10 and 12 should also be withdrawn at least by virtue of their respective dependencies upon the independent claims.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 10/014,516

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NEW CLAIMS:

Applicant adds new claims 18-21 to further define that the tension is increased by increasing a winding speed of the web. New claims 18-21 are readable on the elected species and are not taught or suggested by the applied references. For example, as shown in Fig. 16 of Yamauchi, the Examiner relies on section T1-T3 to represent a period of increased tension. However, as shown in Fig. 18 of Yamauchi, the speed of the yarn in section T1-T3 is not increased. On the contrary, the speed is maintained constant throughout section T1-T3.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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